

## STATE OF MISSOURI

- 26,100 people experience homelessness in Missouri each day and another 19,600 are living in overcrowded dwellings, doubled and tripled up, without a home to call their own (MASW 2001)
- Declining wages have put housing out of reach for many workers; in every state, no one earning minimum wage can afford a one or two bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent. **At minimum wage, a person must work between 80 and 119 hours a week to afford a home** (National Low Income Housing Coalition)
- A person earning minimum wage, \$515 per hour can afford no more than \$268 per month for rent and utilities. (Out of reach 2001: America's Growing Wage-Rent Disparity)
- The housing wage in Missouri is \$11.12 an hour. (National Low Income Housing Coalition)
- Disabled persons (serious mental illness, developmental disabilities, HIV and substance abuse) are increasingly spending nights in homeless shelters with a 70% increase from 1998 to 2000
- Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Families are spending the night in homeless shelters with an increase of nearly 60% from 1998 to 2001 (MASW Survey)
- Childhood homelessness is often hidden; however in 1997 there were 7,695 known homeless children and youth in the state and by 2000 that total rose to 17,560 (Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)
- For every three people who experience homelessness, one of them is a Veteran (Dept. of Veterans Affairs)
- During FY 2002 approximately 30% of the 6,650 offenders returned to prison as a parole violator did not have a known stable address at the time of their re-incarceration. Offenders are disabled, hence have limitations related to working They are not eligible for public housing, Section 8 or food stamps by virtue of their conviction (Missouri Department of Corrections)